

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16 and 23-26 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record taken either singly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations which the Applicant claims in claim 16 in a manner which would warrant a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103.

There was no prior art found by the examiner that suggested modification or combination with the cited prior art so as to satisfy the combination of the present independent claim 16; especially, the prior art does not provide an optical module comprising a housing including at least sections with a ring-shaped support formed thereon, the housing disposed on a circuit carrier, the ring-shaped support defining an outer boundary of the housing; a lens unit including a lens holder and the lens holder being supported by the circuit carrier substantially without being supported by the housing wherein the base lens is disposed externally from the housing in combination with the rest of the structural limitations as recited in claim 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone/Fax Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie P. Cruz whose telephone number is 571-272-8599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, Sue A. Purvis can be reached on 571-272-1236. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LPC/
Examiner, Art Unit 2826
/Leonardo Andújar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2826